Report of National Water Council

†303. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Water Council has submitted its report with regard to paucity of potable water and States having this problem;

(b) if so, the points mentioned in the said report;

(c) whether Council has expressed its serious concern over paucity of potable water and grave problem in Kutch-Saurashtra region; and

(d) if so, the measure Government are taking to deal with the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: (a) to (d) No, Sir. The National Water Resources council is a national apex policy making body headed by the Prime Minister with Chief Ministers of States, Administrators of Union Territories and Union Ministers of concerned department as members. The council has not prepared any report with regard to paucity of potable water and/or problems of States. Drinking Water Supply being a State subject, the schemes for providing drinking water supply facilities are implemented by the State Governments from their own resources. However, in the National Water Policy, 1987, Drinking Water has been assigned first priority in the allocation of water in planning and operation of water resources system. It also provides that adequate drinking water facilities should be provided to the entire population both in urban and in rural areas and accordingly, irrigation and multipurpose projects should invariably include a drinking water component, wherever there is no alternative source of drinking water. Drinking water needs of human beings and animals should be the first charge on any available water. As per guidlines issued by Central Water Commission for "Provision of Drinking Water Supply in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Multi-purpose and Irrigation Projects", a provision is specifically made for drinking water supply, both for urban and rural, as one of the components of the project, wherever there is no alternative source of drinking water.

Hurdles in Construction of Pagladia Project

304. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress in construction of Pagladia Project in Assam;

(b) whether all hurdles have been overcome; and

(c) if not, what measures have been contemplated to overcome them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: (a) Pre-construction activities including geological foundation investigation, construction ancf repairing of roads and bridges leading to the project site as found necessary has been initiated. The Government of Assam has already identified 18,000 bighas of land for rehabilitation and resettlement of the project affected families. Out of this, advance possession of 1,800 bighas has been taken over by Brahmaputra Board from State Government of Assam. Work of preparation of design and specification drawings has also been taken up.

(b) and (c) However, there is objection of a section of the Project Affected people which needs to be attended so as to facilitate the implementation of this project. Negotiation is going on with them through intermediaries and local Non-Government Organisations to sort out the issue. The Government of Assam have also assured necessary security cover as and when required.